GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5081
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Indo Pak Talks
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to start fresh negotiations with Pakistan and separatist leaders over Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in December 2015 to participate in the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process Heart of Asia, it was decided that Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue on all outstanding issues would be launched. However, the terrorist attack on Pathankot Air Base on January 2, 2016 and subsequent intensification of cross border terrorism has prevented the initiation of such a dialogue. The Government has clearly stated that the onus is on Pakistan to create a conducive environment free of violence, terrorism and hostility for addressing all outstanding issues through a bilateral dialogue.

So far as the separatist leaders are concerned, the Government remains open to dialogue with those who eschew the path of violence and are willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India.